

## FAQs: The Drought and Sites Reservoir

DWR engineers have been monitoring storage in Northern California reservoirs. On October 22, North Of Delta (NOD) Storage, or total storage in Trinity, Shasta, Oroville, and Folsom reservoirs, went below 3.0 MAF for only the second time (annually) since the reservoirs were built – 2.99 Million Acre-Feet (MAF). Only 1977 NOD Storage was lower, at 1.93 MAF. The NOD Storage timeline is shown in this Figure, with drought periods, including the current drought highlighted in red. For perspective, average NOD Storage is 8.01 MAF.

### **How much water could Sites Reservoir add to North of Delta Storage in a year like this?**

With historic runoff, current operations, and assuming implementation of Sites Reservoir, NODOS Alternative C:

Drought<sup>1</sup> End-of-September **NOD Storage Increase = 900 Thousand Acre Feet (TAF)**

This would be a 27% improvement, reflecting additional water in storage in the four existing reservoirs and in Sites Reservoir.

### **What other benefits would Sites Reservoir provide during drought?**

While this improved storage would support a diverse set of water resources benefits, a direct result is improved cold water pools (CWP) in the reservoirs noted previously and that support anadromous fish populations downstream of their dams. For example, Shasta Lake's cold water pool would be improved, resulting in improved temperatures for salmonids in the Upper Sacramento River.

Drought<sup>1</sup> **CWP Improvement (May-September) in Shasta Lake = 280 TAF**

This would be a 15% improvement during these critical periods

In addition to the storage and habitat improvements upstream, Sites also provides the following drought water supply benefits downstream:

Drought<sup>1</sup> **Delta Exports Water Supply Increase = 360 TAF/year**

This would be an 11% improvement

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Drought performance is determined by the average performance during historic drought periods, years 1929-34, 1976-77, and 1987-92

## Historical Total North of Delta Storage (Trinity + Shasta + Oroville + Folsom)

